FEB 3 1960

DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. VI NO. 25 December 6th 1957 Price: 15 Pf., 5c, 3d.

BONN GENERAL ON RAMPAGE

Wehrmacht Commander Threatens India, Calls For Rockets, Atom Bombs

A "strong hand" should be used to counter "dangerous developments" in such countries as India, Indonesia and North Africa, General Adolf Heusinger, Inspector General of the German Wehrmacht, stated in an address in Hamburg on November 25th.

General Heusinger, formerly chief of the operations department of Hitler's Wehrmacht, was addressing the "Hansa Club", an influential group of West German businessmen, and his remarks were not intended for publication. A full report of his remarks has been made available, however, to this paper.

General Heusinger, whose name figures as a war criminal on the lists drawn up before the end of World War Two by the United Nations, began by stating that the western world was "too much on the defensive". Western strategy was severely threatened by developments in India, Indonesia, North Africa and other parts of the world. "A strong hand is needed to deal with developments in India, otherwise great dangers will arise there" he stated. "For the strategy of the NATO powers it is imperative that France should retain its control of Algeria. That is why we support France's efforts in Algeria."

Calling for the equipment of the West German Wehrmacht with nuclear weapons, Heusinger stated: "The west still has atomic superiority, and the Soviet advantage in rocket development will be cancelled out within a few months. In an atomic war the decisive factors are air power and rockets, and this must be taken into consideration in the equipment of the Federal Army."

General Heusinger described western Europe as the American bridgehead in Europe, which must be held at all costs. For this reason the Americans could not withdraw from Europe under any circumstances, and this meant "that there is little chance that there will be a change which would favour the re-unification of Germany. The West German Federal Republic was the keystone in the western military system and this meant that there could be no question of neutralising Germany."

On the contrary, General Heusinger stated, West Germany must be armed "as strongly as we possibly can". He disclosed that a total of 4000 tanks were already stationed in West Germany.

General Heusinger announced that the West German Wehrmacht should be equipped with rocket weapons which could "lay a barrage up to the Oder-Neisse line" (the frontier between Germany and Poland, ed.). This question was under active consideration, but had not yet been decided.

The West German navy stationed in the Baltic must be a basically offensive force, he stated. "This principle, which I have always propounded, has been accepted with pleasure by the naval staff."

General Heusinger disclosed that all plans had now been made to reinforce the Wehrmacht with a motorised territorial army composed of West Germans who had been too young to serve in Hitler's Wehrmacht and who were now too old to be called up for regular service in the new Wehrmacht.

In conclusion Heusinger warned his listeners that the armaments programme would demand "great financial sacrifices" from the population, since it would be very expensive. It was a good thing that it had taken so long to organise the new West German army, since today the Second World War lies well in the past, and the population had become "psychologically ready" to become soldiers once again.

MR X Goes to Town . . . . . Page 186

New Facts on Adenauer's Aide . . . . . Page 188

"MR X" GOES TO TOWN

George Kennan Gets over Cold War Sickness, Talks Good Sense

The German problem should be settled by the withdrawal of all foreign troops from East and West Germany, Mr. George Kennan, noted American political analyst, proposed on November 24th. Mr. Kennan also proposed that this step should be accompanied by some form of neutralisation of Germany and other parts of Central Europe.

Mr. George Kennan, now a Professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton, USA, first became internationally prominent in the early days of the cold war, when he wrote, under the pseudonym of "Mr. X", an analysis of the "policy of containment", the polite name for America's cold war policy. He was later US Ambassador in Moscow.

Political observers in Berlin noted that Mr. Kennan's proposals, which can be assumed to have the backing of influential circles in the United States, were basically similar to many proposals made in the past both by the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Government.

Support for his "new look" policy in influential British circles was indicated by the "Times" of London in a leading article on November 2, which stated: "The proposals ... deserve the closest attention. There is always a risk that western thinking may get into a rut and so leave Russia the credit which comes from being apparently ready to break new ground ... If concessions are to be made by both sides they will obviously be acceptable only if they result in a Germany which neither Russia nor the west feels is a potential threat ... It may in military eyes be essential that West Germany should share in the defence of Europe by intermediate ballistic missiles, but, from the political point of view, there would be clear gain if Germany, west and east, voluntarily abandoned all such things."

Here are some of the main points from Mr. Kennan's speech, made on the BBC on November 24th:

He stressed that "the presence of garrison forces of victor Powers ... lies at the heart of problems presented in Germany and the satellite countries. Both are crying out for solution, but the present attitude of western Powers gives little ground for hope that one will be found. There are elements in assumptions underlying the western position that might well be subjected to courageous and unsparing re-examination.

"Recent events have made it perfectly clear that it is the presence of these (Soviet) troops, coupled with the general military and political situation in Europe which lies at the heart of the difficulty.

"But it is plain that there can be no Soviet military withdrawal from eastern Europe unless the entire area can in some way be removed as an object in the military rivalry of the great Powers. This at once involves the German problem, not only because it implies the withdrawal of Soviet forces from eastern Germany, but because so long as American and other western forces remain in western Germany it will be impossible for the Russians to view their problem in eastern Europe otherwise than in direct relation to the overall military equation between Russia and the west.

"Any solution of the problem of the satellite area is thus dependent on a solution of the German problem itself. That is one reason why I am inclined to feel that the German question still stands at the centre of world tensions, and that no greater contribution could be made to world peace than the removal of the present deadlock over Germany. If this deadlock is not removed, the chances of peace are slender."

Referring to the western government's insistence that an all-German government should continue to adhere, as the German Federal Republic does today, to the NATO Pact, Mr. Kennan pointed out that "Moscow is really being asked, by implication, to abandon — as part of an agreement on German unification — the military and political bastion in Central Europe which it won by its military effort from 1941 to 1945, and without any compensatory withdrawal of American armed power from the heart of the Continent. This is something the Soviet Government is most unlikely to accept, if only for reasons of what it regards as its own political security at home and abroad.

"Many other obstacles will no doubt arise, but until greater clarity has been achieved on the subject of the indefinite retention of the American and other western garrisons on German soil there can be no proper beginning."

Speaking of possibilities of mutual withdrawal of troops from the heart of Europe which have not yet been fully explored, and of a "serious underestimation of the advantages to western security to be derived from a Soviet military withdrawal from Central and Eastern Europe," Mr. Kennan emphasised that "it seems far more desirable on principle to get the Soviet forces out of central and eastern Europe than to cultivate a new German Army for the purpose of opposing them while they remain."

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

Subscription rates: 4 marks, 8/- sterling, $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, postage paid.

Subscriptions may be paid at the following addresses:

Democratic Germany: At all post offices.

Britain: Collet's Subscription Dept, 46 Museum St. London W. C. 1

All other communications should be addressed to:

Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167 III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY GREETS MOSCOW RESOLUTIONS

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany has officially endorsed the two resolutions passed by leaders of Communist and workers' parties recently assembled in Moscow.

The Central Committee met on November 27th for this purpose, and passed a resolution describing the joint declaration of the parties of the socialist countries as "a document of historic importance, filled with the creative spirit of Marxism-Leninism". The resolution added: "With all respect for national traditions and specific forms, the time has now come to speak less about the specific forms of the various countries and their 'different paths', and more about those things which they have in common."

The resolution of the Socialist Unity Party disclosed for the first time that it had been decided to publish an international Marxist-Leninist periodical.

The resolution also greeted the Peace Manifesto, issued in Moscow by the representatives of 68 Communist and workers' parties, and called for the broadening of the peace movement in Germany so that it might become a real people's movement struggling for the ending of nuclear tests, the banning of nuclear weapons, the creation of an "atom-free zone" in Europe and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Germany and the countries of Europe.

The resolution added: "Since these demands coincide with the demands of the Social Democrats and the trade unions in West Germany, it must be possible to create unity in action in West Germany between the Social Democrats, the Communists and the Christian workers."

COSTLY GUESTS AT THE TABLE

Photomontage by John Heartfield, inventor of the political photocartoon. John Heartfield was recently awarded the National Prize of the German Democratic Republic

HE INVENTED J BRAND

New Disclosures on Crimes of Hans Globke, Chancellor Adenauer's Anti-Semitic Aide

In September 1938 the nazi government of Germany suddenly proclaimed that the passports of all German Jews must be prominently marked with a big capital "J".

Documents just published in Switzerland have disclosed that the man responsible for this measure was Dr. Hans Globke, then a high official in the nazi Ministry of the Interior, and today personal assistant to West German Chanceller Adenauer.

Commenting on this disclosure, West German Social Democratic M.P. Adolf Arndt stated: "This measure, worked out and ensured by Globke, made it impossible for many racial persecutees to flee in time, and thus laid the groundwork for their later murder, which was already threatened at the time of the implementation of this measure."

The new revelations about Globke's part in Hitler's murder campaign against the Jews were made in the book "The Refugee Policy of Switzerland from 1933 to the Present Day" („Die Flüchtlingspolitik der Schweiz seit 1933 bis zur Gegenwart") by Professor Carl Ludwig, which has just been published in Switzerland. This book, which is based upon official Swiss documents, describes how Dr. Rothmund, right-wing Swiss police chief, urged in 1938 that measures should be taken to prevent the mass flight of German Jews to Switzerland. The main difficulty was that German citizens were at that time free to visit Switzerland without visas, and the Swiss authorities had no means of distinguishing between Jews and non-Jews.

This difficulty was resolved at a conference between Dr. Globke and the Swiss police chief in Berne on September 17th. At this conference Dr. Globke assured the Swiss police chief that he would see to it that within fourteen days all German passports held by Jews would be stamped with a big capital "J". The nazi anthorities put this proposal into practice, and as a result thousands of German Jews were refused admission to Switzerland, and were subsequently sent to death in the nazi murder camps.

Previous to the recent Swiss disclosures it had not been public knowledge that Dr. Globke had been implicated in the stamping of the letter "J" in Jewish passports: it had however been known that he had played a considerable part in the nazi anti-Semitic campaign, and that he was co-author of the nazi legal commentary on the notorious "Nuremberg Laws", which formed the basis on which the Jews were hounded from German public life and ultimately to the gas chamber.

Full details, with photostatic copies of relevant passages from Dr. Globke's legal commentary, were published in GERMAN REPORT dated March 30th 1956, a copy of which will be sent to any reader interested.

After the publication of these revelations, West German Chancellor Adenauer stated, on March 20th 1956, that he had no intention of sacking Globke. He described him as a man "with an unusual sense of duty, good memory, enormous knowledge of persons, and outstanding intelligence". He said that he was confident that Dr. Globke could only have written the commentary to the Nuremberg Laws with the aim of weakening the effect of these laws.

Commenting on the explanation given by Chanceller Adenauer, the West German "Central Board of Jews" stated:

"We are unaware that Jewish lives were saved as the result of any sort of commentary to the Nuremberg Laws. We do know, on the other hand, that these laws led to the criminal murder of 6 million men, women and children ... A jurist who sank so low as to provide a pseudo-scientific commentary to barbaric injustice has violated the moral basis of human co-existence, and lost the right to participate in the noble service of justice."

Reichsbürgergeſetz
vom 15. September 1935
Geſetz zum Schutze des deutſchen Blutes und der deutſchen Ehre
vom 15. September 1935
Geſetz zum Schutze der Erbgeſundheit des deutſchen Volkes (Ehegeſundheitsgeſetz)
vom 18. Oktober 1935
nebſt allen Ausführungsvorſchriften und den einſchlägigen Geſetzen und Verordnungen
erläutert von
Dr. Wilhelm Stuckart und Dr. Hans Globke
C. H. Beck'ſche Verlagsbuchhandlung
München und Berlin 1936

On the left you see the title page of a shameful book published in 1936 in nazi Germany. It contains the text of three racialist laws, known throughout the world as the "Nuremberg Laws", and a legal commentary, explaining how these laws are to be applied in practice. This commentary was written jointly by SS Brigade Leader Wilhelm Stuckart and Dr Hans Globke. Today this same Hans Globke is State Secretary to West German Chancellor Adenauer, and generally regarded as the second most powerful man in the West German state.

ENGLISH TEACHERS VISIT DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

By Dorothy Diamond, London

We were 15 English teachers, 14 teachers of English and a stray biologist, and we spent three weeks working during our last summer holidays. And how do we feel about it? "It was a wonderful three weeks. I feel that never have I got to know so many people so well in so short a time! And what very nice people they were, too! I shan't forget everybody's kindness and generosity" says one of the English "team", und "It was altogether a wonderful experience. I hope there will be a chance of going again!" says another.

Why did we go? The German Democratic Republic Ministry of Education plan for 1957/8 says "The development of a socialist economy and culture, and the growing international contacts of the Republic demand intensive study of important foreign languages", and it goes on to announce widespread new possibilities for pupils in Mittelschulen as well as in Oberschulen to learn English alongside Russian. East German factory leaderships, in answer to a questionnaire from the Dresden Institute of Education, said recently that a knowledge of foreign languages was essential today for many kinds of workers such as radio operators, laboratory technicians, salesmen and engineering fitters. They criticised the present standards of pronunciation of both pupils and teachers! With this background of demand there is a tremendous current expansion of interest in the learning and teaching of English in Democratic Germany.

So we were invited to Weimar, to help in a Summer School in the English language. We spent three weeks of August in the otherwise quiet town of Weimar, making new history in this old centre of German culture — for ours was the first School of its kind. We lived in the Teachers' Training College with an equal number of German teachers of English from all corners of the Republic, from the Baltic coast to the forests of Thüringen — invited by the Gewerkschaft Unterricht und Erziehung.

From the very beginning we used first names only, which probably startled our German colleagues — but after 25 hours of travelling together we were used to it among ourselves, and wanted to share the "family feeling" with our new friends. At meals we firmly reserved alternate seats for Germans and English, and in every way tried to work in international cooperation. The international flavour was increased by the presence in the same College of a parallel French course, and for a few days of a group of Soviet teachers improving their own German. To quote again from an English opinion "After the first few hours the ice was broken, genuine friendships were established, and as a result much more progress was made than could have been expected". And "The spirit was perfect — that we'll never lose" says Heinz, now back on the job.

What did we do? We took with us, or posted ahead, our chosen contributions to an "English teacher's bookshelf", ranging from Chaucer to John Osborne, and including books about life in Britain, songbooks, and textbooks of English grammar. The highlight of the collection was the Oxford University Press "Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English", and so obvious and irresistible was our German colleagues' desire for this book that we sent an air mail order back to England for sixteen copies. We were glad in this way to make some acknowledgment of the generosity we were meeting all the time. To quote again "I think one of the things I shall remember best about the Democratic Republic was that warm kindliness of our colleagues".

We left the books for our German friends; we gave eight short lectures on educational subjects, which were recorded on tape, and remain available for use in the Republic. We also made a few tape-recordings of English passages from the textbooks; including the best performance of "Billy Boy" that they or we are ever likely to hear; and we showed colour slides of London and professional photographs of English schools at work.

During the course we held several very successful joint "Brains Trusts" and discussion sessions, in which criticism was sometimes fired openly at targets in both countries and was sometimes found after explanation to be unjustified! However, there was valuable criticism on both sides — of textbooks, of social values in education, of bureaucracy; we found our German colleagues modest, tolerant, and extremely eager to learn. We in our turn learnt a very great deal about life in a country moving towards socialism — its successes, its shadows, and its aspirations. The German team included members of three political parties and of none; all defended the policies of the National Front. The English team also held various political views, but although we discussed freely and long, we had not gone there for a political conference, and no attempt was made to give us one. We had our individual visas, and complete freedom to go where we liked and talk to anyone we met. During the last week of the School we visited many (rather too many) places of great interest in Thüringen; we were horrified by the ability of our German friends to regard 5.30 a. m. as a possible time for getting up, and on a Sunday morning in the holidays! But our efforts were rewarded by some wonderful impressions — the almost living Naumburger Stifterfiguren, the Bachhaus in Eisenach, with Bach's own little cradle and his harpsichord, which Gerhard played for us. And then, right in the middle of the twentieth century, the enormous T. B. sanatorium high in the pinewoods of Bad Berka, the fine Teachers' Training College in Erfurt, the spacious new central school in Isseroda — where we could see the care being given today to the education of country children. Some of our most valued visits were those where we could see the life of the ordinary people, such as the only too short morning talking to the workers in the "Optima" factory, the muddy but vigorous tour of the flourishing cooperative farm in Weissenschirmbach, and the overwhelmingly friendly reception we were given in Ratsfeld Young Pioneer camp. In all of these we asked the questions we wanted to ask, and were freely answered.

In Weimar itself we found time, between "work in small groups" and eating large meals, to see numerous Goethe and Schiller Houses, monuments and tombs, two museums, some good swimming and diving, the "Marriage of Figaro" in the National Theatre, and three films, one each in English, French and German — the last being the unforgettable "German Story". (At least two of us, not satisfied, have seen this film again in London since our return.) An even deeper shared experience was the

morning excursion to the hilltop site of Buchenwald concentration camp; each national group laid flowers here, and expressed in the simplest words our common determination that such things shall never happen again.

From these and many other joint activities, from hours of quiet discussion on the coach journeys, from evenings of hilarious mutual entertainment — with John singing to the guitar, Gerhard playing the accordion like a blond angel, and Horst the born raconteur singing songs of girls and goats and Oberammergau — from all our countless conversations, the memory of genuine contacts with real people will last in the minds and hearts of the English who took part.

Two members of the English team continue to help with work on the English textbooks, and from corner to corner of our countries a sturdy fabric of correspondence "between friends" now carries on our concentrated three weeks' work, and helps in some measure to thank our generous hosts of the German Democratic Republic.

You Ask — We Answer

EAST GERMAN TV

"I have seen reports that TV is growing in popularity in East Germany. What sort of programmes do you get?"

H. G. Detroit, USA

Television in East Germany is just five years old this month, and both in length of programme and number of receivers it still lags well behind "older" TV countries like the USA and Britain. About 125,000 receivers are in use today, and the demand for sets is so great that there is a long waiting list.

The whole subject of television in Germany will be dealt with in an early number of GERMAN REPORT, but here is the full programme for the week November 24th to 30th this year, to give readers a rough idea what East German viewers can see on their screens:

Sunday

10.00 a. m. Special programme for farmers.

10.00 a. m. Puppet show for six-year-olds, followed by adventure play about a South American boy for eight-year-olds.

12.45 p. m. World championship soccer match Poland v. Soviet Union direct from Leipzig.

4.00 o. m. Programme of songs, poems and pictures for "Memorial Sunday".

5.00 p. m. "Till Eulenspiegel", new French-East-German film coproduction starring Gérard Philipe.

8.00 p. m. "The Cellar" anti-war play about World War Two by Hans Lucke.

9.30 p. m. East German ballroom dancing documentary.

10.00 p. m. Newsreel of the week: round-up of daily newsreel programmes.

Monday

1.30 p. m. "The Bath on the Mountain", pre-war German comedy film.

8.00 p. m. Newsreel and weather forecast.

8.30 p. m. Weekend sports report.

9.10 p. m. "Guess Once-Win Twice" quiz show in which viewers send in written solutions to win valuable prizes including cars.

Tuesday

1.30 p. m. "Cafe on Mainstreet", Czechoslovak detective film.

4.30 p. m. Children's Hour "My Hobby": for eight-year-olds.

5.00 p. m. Woman's Hour: "Don't Rush Into Divorce".

7.00 p. m. Folk dance programme.

8.00 p. m. Newsreel.

8.25 p. m. Quiz programme conducted by puppet "Professor Brainy".

9.00 p. m. "The Student of Prague", pre-war German film starring Anton Walbrook.

Wednesday

1.30 p. m. "In Distant Harbours", Soviet film on merchant marine.

4.30 p. m. Children's hour for five-year-olds. Children learn new games.

8.00 p. m. Newsreel.

9.00 p. m. Variety programme presented by art students.

Thursday

1.30 p. m. "The Search for Happiness", Soviet fairy-tale film.

4.30 p. m. Children's hour for six-year-olds.

7.00 p. m. Sport half-hour.

7.30 p. m. Programme preview for following week.

8.00 p. m. Newsreel.

8.25 p. m. "The Death Was Arranged", TV play on Irish independence movement in the last century, based on the book "Boykott" by West German author Johannes Tralow.

9.45 p. m. Animal lecture about rhinoceros.

Friday

11.30 a. m. Repeat performance for shift workers of quiz programme "Guess Once — Win Twice".

1.30 p. m. "Music from Mars", Czechoslovak film comedy.

3.15 p. m. Second repeat performance of quiz programme "Guess Once — Win Twice".

7.00 p. m. Youth programme: "What's This About the 'Weaker Sex'".

8.00 p. m. Newsreel.

8.20 p. m. Cartoonist Mittelberg from Paris draws for viewers.

8.45 p. m. "The Witches of Salem", new French-East-German film coproduction based on play "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller.

Saturday

4.30 p. m. Fairy-tale film programme for six-year-olds.

5.00 p. m. Variety programme direct from East Berlin factory hall.

6.00 p. m. Third repeat performance of quiz programme "Guess Once — Win Twice".

7.30 p. m. Newsreel.

8.00 p. m. Ice programme, including hockey, figure skating, ice show.

Photo-Profile

SOCIALIST FACTORY MANAGER

The attractive young woman shown in the photograph on this page is Erika Kobiella, manager of a socialised factory in the German Democratic Republic.

Thirty-year-old Erika learned to be a carpenter after she left school, and by 1950 she was doing such good work that she was promoted to the post of management assistant in the factory where she was working. Here too she showed great ability, and soon she was sent off with a scholarship to study management practice at the School of Administration in Frankenberg. She sailed through her exams with distinction, and went to work as manager of a small factory making winter sports goods. After two years in this position she went off to study once again, this time at the Technical High School in Dresden, which she left this year with her diploma as economist. And finally in September she took up her new and responsible post as manager of the nationally-owned sports goods factory in Karl-Marx-Stadt.

Here she has the job of running an expanding factory with 200 workers, mostly men. The emphasis is on the word "expanding", for the factory at present is still housed in an old rather broken down building: this will soon be changed, for the central planning authorities have made ten million marks available for new factory buildings, which are going up fast, also under Erika's capable direction. When this modern, light building is completed in 1960, the factory will have grown out of all recognition, wtih an output four times as high as it was a year or two ago.

The sports goods factory is turning out gymnasium equipment and other articles not only for the Democratic Republic, but also for export. Goods from the factory already go to Egypt, Indonesia, Holland, Denmark and a dozen other countries.

How does Erika get on with the workers in the factory? She knows them all by name already, and the department chiefs and foremen, at first rather reluctant to be "bossed by a woman", have found out that she knows her job as well as any of them. She still finds a certain reserve amongst callers from outside. Again and again when she answers the phone and announces that the manager is speaking she gets the reply "I want to speak to the manager personally, not his secretary". "Quite a lot of men haven't got the idea yet that equal rights for women means that woman can work in responsible positions" she says.

Manager Erika Kobiella does not get very much time to herself, because she is still continuing her studies in her spare time. Her hobbies are winter-sports and swimming. And she is just as handy with a needle as with the vertical drill shown in the photograph: she makes her own dresses.

Factory manager Erika Kobiella at the drill during a special voluntary shift commemorating the Soviet October Revolution

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

On another page of this issue we report some interesting remarks made by American foreign affairs expert George Kennan, and by the "Times" of London on the subject of getting all foreign troops out of Germany.

I don't want to turn this notebook into a leading article, but I should like to make a short comment on one aspect of this unagonising reappraisal: and that is that Mr Kennan is by no means propounding a new and original idea. In fact, he is just picking up a proposal which was launched by the socialist countries years ago. It is a little bit as though in the year 1962 some American leader should suddenly have a brain-wave and announce that it would be a good idea to launch an earth satellite, putting it as though nobody had ever had an idea like that before.

Long List

I shall not weary readers with a long listing of the times when the Soviet Government and the Government of the German Democratic Republic have in fact proposed getting all foreign troops out of Germany as a first step to solving the German problem, but here is just a little bit of chapter and verse:

March 10th 1952: Soviet Union proposes all foreign troops should be withdrawn from Germany within one year.

January 30th 1954: The Government of the German Democratic Republic suggests withdrawal of all foreign troops, in plan submitted to Berlin Conference.

February 1st 1955: Warsaw Pact powers proposed all foreign troops should leave Germany.

And I could expand this very short selection to fill the whole of this page.

Far be it from me to detract from the importance of the proposal which Mr Kennan has now made: but he certainly was not first in the field. Perhaps "Russian spies" stole his plan from him years and years ago?

Rock-'n-Roll

I expect that most readers have read at some time or another newspaper stories about campaigns against jazz or rock-'n-roll in the socialist countries. Now I don't intend to get myself into the controversy about the subject: my private opinion is that quite a lot of nonsense has been uttered in the socialist countries on the subject, and that quite a lot of the western newspaper reports on the controversy have been blown up out of all proportion.

Money Question

But there is another side of the problem which has just come to my attention which seems to me to make quite a lot of sense. That is the financial aspect. As you probably know, when a dance tune is played on the radio, or performed by a band in a restaurant or elsewhere, performance fees have to be paid to the Performing Rights Association, which in its turn hands on the fees to the composer and the song-writer. This is all very right and proper, but it runs into a snag when the composer and song writer live in another country. The fee then, quite naturally, has to be made available in some sort of currency that the composer can use: and this can be a serious problem for a country like the German Democratic Republic which still has to reckon with every penny of hard currency that it can lay its hands on. It seems, quite frankly, a little bit silly, to pay out thousands of pounds and dollars and West German marks for the performance of not particularly brilliant songs about "blue" and "you", instead of using them to import something useful.

I must say I had not realised what size this problem had reached until I saw a listing of the proportions of fees the performing rights association had to pay out in foreign currency: this year the dance bands in the state owned cafes and restaurants played "western" music 87 % of the time; in the cafes run by the cooperative society they played "western" music 71 % of the time; and radio dance bands did it 55 % of the time. Put in another way, the Democratic Republic realised it had been importing sambas instead of steel, mambas instead of machines, and rock-an-roll instead of raw materials.

Of course the authorities do not intend to ban all music imports, but the Ministry of Culture is starting a campaign to see to it that not more than 40 % of programme time is occupied by light music which has to be paid for in hard currency. Now we have to wait and see whether the composers and song-writers of the socialist countries can provide enough good light music and dance music to fill the gap.

And just incidentally, the figures given above show rather conclusively that there is nothing which could be remotely called a "ban on western music" in the German Democratic Republic.

Happy Birthday?

West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer has just sent a telegram of congratulation to nazi Field Marshal Erich von Manstein on his 70th birthday. He thanked the Field Marshal for his "valuable services" in building up our armed forces. Remember von Manstein? He was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for war crimes by a British military court in Hamburg in 1949, but released four years later.

During his trial, Manstein admitted that he had ordered the execution of 63 Jews and Communists as a reprisal for the deaths of three German soldiers, and that he had recommended the award of Iron Crosses to members of the nazi security forces who had shot 1200 civilians in the Crimea: he added that there was nothing in his actions during the war which he had cause to regret.

Ten Days

"Ten Days That Shook the World", famed book on the Soviet Revolution by American journalist John Reed, has just been re-published in the German Democratic Republic. The last German edition of the book was published in 1927. The entire first print of 30,000 copies was sold out in less than a week, and a new edition is on the way.

Exhibit

In conclusion, here is a belated note on one of the most interesting exhibitions seen in East Berlin lately: there have been so many exhibitions in the past month or two that this one got overlooked. It was an exhibition of British commercial art, posters and advertisements, arranged by the Society of Industrial Artists. In some ways East German commercial art has been lagging behind world developments, and I can only hope that this very successful exhibit will inspire some of the local commercial artists to pull their socks up in future.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik